

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (previously presented): A composition for preventing or treating epithelial tissue damage associated with the expression of glucosylceramide synthase comprising, a substance that prevents or treats epithelial tissue damage, comprising:

an RNA polynucleotide antisense to a sequence comprised by the glucosylceramide synthase mRNA, and further comprising a cell containing the polynucleotide and a lower amount of the CD_{1d} gene translation product than in similar cells lacking the polynucleotide.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 6, wherein the polynucleotide is a cRNA.

Claims 8-32 (canceled).